

*Preliminary Draft*

# **Evaluation of Aspira Sites in Hudson, Passaic and Middlesex Counties**

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## Executive Summary

This report provides the Board of Directors of the *Aspira of New Jersey* an evaluation of the Aspira sites in Hudson, Passaic and Middlesex County. It contains an overview of the services currently provided in Hudson and Passaic county, an assessment of the level of need for additional services in these two counties and recommended actions for the Board of Directors. This report also provides an assessment of the level of need for an Aspira site in Perth Amboy NJ, located in Middlesex County, where Aspira currently does not provide any services.

- (2-1) It is recommended that Aspira of Hudson County expand to service at least 500 Latino students in Dickinson High School from 30 students. There are over one thousand Latino students in Dickinson High school that Aspira can offer services to.
- (2-2) It is recommended that Aspira of Hudson County increase the percentage of Puerto Rican students being serviced in Ferris HS to 75% from 37%.
- (2-3) It is recommended that Aspira of Hudson County avoid providing services to Lincoln HS and Snyder HS until the percentage of Latino students increase to at least 33 %. The current percentage of Latino students are 17 % and 10 % respectively.
- (3-1) It is recommended that Aspira expand to provide services to Latino students in Perth Amboy HS where there are over 1300 Latino students that Aspira does not provide any services to.
- (4-1) It is recommended that Aspira expand to provide services to at least 50 % of the Latino students in Paterson's Kenney and East Side High Schools, from the current 13 %.

- (4-2) It is recommended that the Aspira increase the percentage of Puerto Rican students it services to 75% from 52 % in Paterson NJ.

## 1. Introduction

This report provides the Board of Directors of the *Aspira of New Jersey* an evaluation of the Aspira sites in Hudson, Passaic and Middlesex County. It contains an overview of the services currently provided in Hudson and Passaic county, an assessment of the level of need for additional services in these two counties and recommended actions for the Board of Directors. This report also provides an assessment of the level of need for an Aspira site in Perth Amboy NJ, located in Middlesex County, where Aspira currently does not provide any services.

### 1.1. Background

*What events led the Board to generate this report.*

### 1.2. Scope

*What is the scope of the assessment?*

## 2. Jersey City/Hudson County

### 2.1. Status

Aspira has been offering educational, leadership and cultural awareness and self identity programs in Hudson County over fifteen years. Most of Aspira's efforts are concentrated in one high school in Hudson County, Ferris High School in Jersey City. Ferris High School is the high school with the largest percentage of Latino students in Jersey City, with 57% (880/1554) of the students being Latino in 1994. In 1995, Aspira started to service Dickinson HS through funding provided by the Americorp program.

Aspira currently employs in Hudson County one counselor for Ferris HS and three Americorp members in Dickinson HS. The Aspira counselor services 74 students in Ferris HS. The Americorp members service between 50-80 students from Dickinson HS. It is difficult to determine an accurate number of students Americorp members service because they provide workshops or tutoring services to an audience of 25-30 students three times a week and some students are present in multiple workshops or tutoring sessions.

The Aspira program in Ferris HS is focused on health careers. The following services are provided with a health careers focus: leadership development, dropout prevention, post secondary placement, aspira clubs, public policy, youth congress, cultural awareness and self-identity. An example of leadership development with a focus on health careers is address community health issues such as AIDS awareness and crime prevention. The only service not provided at Ferris is tutoring services.

The three Americorp provide the following services to students in Dickinson HS:

- Tutoring
- Post Secondary information
- Crime Prevention Awareness

Table 2-1 shows the ethnic breakdown of the Aspira students in Ferris High School.

Table 2-1. Ethnic Breakdown of the Aspira Students in Ferris HS.

School	Total	Puerto Rican	Dominican	Central/S.A.	African American	Other
East Side HS	68 ?	25 (37 %)	14 (21 %)	13 (19 %)	10 (15 %)	6



*Roberto please check these numbers for accuracy. The data you faxed to me had that Aspira services 74 students. I'm missing 6 students somewhere.*

## 2.2. Needs in Hudson County

Tables 2-1 through 2-4 contain the quantities and percentage of Latinos in public high schools in Jersey City for 1991-1994. The data contained in these Tables were obtained by the Jersey City Board of Education report \_\_\_\_\_.

*Noemi what's the source of the data you provided?*

**Table 2-2. Latino Population in Jersey City High Schools in 1994**

School	Total Students	Latino Students	Percentage of Latinos
Ferris HS	1554	880	57 %
Dickinson	2610	1171	45 %
Lincoln HS	1174	167	14%
Snyder HS	1193	112	9 %

**Table 2-3. Latino Population in Jersey City High Schools in 1993**

School	Total Students	Latino Students	Percentage of Latinos
Ferris HS	1530	841	55 %
Dickinson	2490	1109	45 %
Lincoln HS	1226	199	16 %
Snyder HS	1242	131	11 %

**Table 2-4. Latino Population in Jersey City High Schools in 1992**

School	Total Students	Latino Students	Percentage of Latinos
Ferris HS	1493	857	57 %
Dickinson	2343	1037	44 %
Lincoln HS	1201	229	19%
Snyder HS	1299	138	11 %

**Table 2-5. Latino Population in Jersey City High Schools in 1991**

School	Total Students	Latino Students	Percentage of Latinos
Ferris HS	1349	776	57 %
Dickinson	2228	948	43%
Lincoln HS	1150	200	17%
Snyder HS	1226	121	10 %

*What percentage are Puerto Rican?*

### **2.3. Assessment and Recommendations**

Dickinson High School contains the highest number of Latinos in any one high school in Jersey City. There are over 1,100 Latino students in Dickinson HS and Aspira is providing services to 30 students

- (2-1) It is recommended that Aspira of Hudson County expand to service at least 500 Latino students

in Dickinson High School from 30 students. There are over one thousand Latino students in Dickinson High school that Aspira can offer services to.

- (2-2) It is recommended that Aspira of Hudson County increase the percentage of Puerto Rican students being serviced in Ferris HS to 75% from 37%.
- (2-3) It is recommended that Aspira of Hudson County avoid providing services to Lincoln HS and Snyder HS until the percentage of Latino students increase to at least 33 %. The current percentage of Latino students are 17 % and 10 % respectively.

Since the number of Latinos in Snyder and Lincoln HSs are small (140-230) compared to Dickinson and Ferris HS (850-1100) it is recommended that the Aspira focus providing services to schools where Aspira can be most effective in reaching Latino students.

*Noemi what are the dropout rates in Dickinson HS?*

*Noemi what are the dropout rates in Ferris HS?*

*Noemi do you see any other recommendations we can address here?*

### 3. Perth Amboy / Middlesex County

#### 3.1. Current Status

Aspira currently does not provide services to Latino Students in Middlesex County. There are efforts currently underway to start an Aspira organization in Perth Amboy by a community organization called *Friends of Aspira*. The *Friends of Aspira* organization is concentrating on creating a network of potential funders for an Aspira organization in Perth Amboy. This effort is being spearheaded by Ivonne Cruz, a school teacher in Lawrenceville NJ, and Jorge Cruz, a Program Coordinator for the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development in Perth Amboy.

#### 3.2. Needs in Middlesex County

Perth Amboy has one high school called Perth Amboy HS. Table 3-1 shows the quantity and percentage Latino students in Perth Amboy HS in the academic years 1992-1993 and 1989-1990. This data was obtained from the ....

*Jorge what was the name of the report you sent me?*

**Table 3-1. Latino Population in Perth Amboy High School 1989-90 and 1992-93**

Perth Amboy HS	Total Students	Latino Students	Percentage of Latinos
1992-1993	1650	1346	81.6 %
1989-1990	1479	1156	78.2 %

### 3.3. Assessment and Recommendations

Perth Amboy HS has a higher number of Latino students than any high school that Aspira of New Jersey is servicing.

- (3-1) It is recommended that Aspira expand to provide services to Latino students in Perth Amboy HS where there are over 1300 Latino students that Aspira does not provide any services to.

## 4. Paterson / Passaic County

### 4.1. Status

Aspira currently provides services to Latino students in Paterson's Kennedy and East Side High Schools. The programs that are currently being offered are:

- leadership development
- dropout prevention

Aspira has two counselors providing services to Latino students in Passaic County. Aspira is currently contracted by the NJ Department of Community Affairs to service 225-250 students in Paterson, NJ. However, the caseload was approximately 139 students at the time this report was written because a counselor position was unstaffed for a period of time. The cultural breakdown of the students being serviced is contained in Table 4-1.

**Table 4-1. Cultural Make-up of the Students in Aspira in Passaic County**

School	Total	Puerto Rican	Dominican	Central/ S.A.	Other
East Side HS	64	33 (52 %)	22 (34 %)	9 (14 %)	0
Kennedy HS	75	39 (52 %)	7 (9 %)	23 (31 %)	6 (8 %)

### 4.2. Needs in Passaic County

Tables 4-2 through 4-4 contain the quantities and percentage of Latinos in public high schools in Jersey City for 1992-1994. The data contained

in these Tables were obtained by the Paterson Board of Education report

*Willie find out from the NJ Commission of Education the name of the report where is information is contained.*

**Table 4-2. Latino Population in Paterson High Schools in 1994**

School	Total Students	Latino Students	Percentage of Latinos
East Side HS	1810	853	47 %
Kennedy	2194	1201	55 %
Rosa Parks HS	316	119	38 %

**Table 4-3. Latino Population in Paterson High Schools in 1993**

School	Total Students	Latino Students	Percentage of Latinos
East Side HS	1821	827	45 %
Kennedy	2142	1162	54 %
Rosa Parks HS	327	120	37 %

**Table 4-4. Latino Population in Paterson High Schools in 1992**

School	Total Students	Latino Students	Percentage of Latinos
East Side HS	1874	844	45 %
Kennedy	2195	1195	54 %



Rosa Parks HS 337

121

36 %

*Mirva what are the dropout rates in East Side and Kennedy HS.*

### 4.3. Assessment and Recommendations

Aspira is currently servicing the high schools in Paterson that contain the highest number and percentage of Latino students East Side HS and Kennedy HS. There are two issues in Paterson that need to be addressed by the Board of Directors. The first issue is that Aspira is needs to expand to provide services to more Latino students. The second issue is that Aspira needs to service a higher percentage of Puerto Rican Students.

Aspira needs to service more Latino students in Paterson. Currently, Aspira provides services to 8 % (64/827) of the Latino students in East Side HS and 7 % (75/1162) of the Latino students in Kennedy HS. The caseload for Aspira in Paterson is budgeted to be 225-250 students. Therefore, Aspira is budgeted to service 13% (225/1989) of the Latino students in Paterson. Aspira does not provide services to 87 % of the Latino students in Paterson.

- (4-1) It is recommended that Aspira expand to provide services to at least 50 % of the Latino students in Paterson's Kenney and East Side High Schools, from the current 13 %.**

Aspira needs to increase the percentage of Puerto Rican students it provides services to in Paterson. Approximately, 50 % as the Aspira students in Paterson are Puerto Rican. It is necessary to focus more efforts to the Puerto Rican community because the socio-economic factors effecting the Puerto Rican community shows that this Latino group is fairing the poorest and needs the most support services. The statistics are in Table 4-4

Table 4-4. Socio-economic Comparison of Latino Populations in the US

	Puerto Rican	Mexican American	Cuban	Dominican	South American
Median Family Income					
% Living in Poverty					
% Single Parent Household					
Dropout Rate					
Average Years of Education					

*Pablo Aibíbal, housing director of the Institute for Hispanic Health and Policy Research, (201) 485-6242 getting this data.*

- (4-2) It is recommended that the Aspira increase the percentage of Puerto Rican students it services to 75% from 52 % in Paterson NJ.

## 5. Summary

The recommendations are:

- (2-1) It is recommended that Aspira of Hudson County expand to service at least 500 Latino students in Dickinson High School from 30 students. There are over one thousand Latino students in Dickinson High school that Aspira can offer services to.
- (2-2) It is recommended that Aspira of Hudson County increase the percentage of Puerto Rican students being serviced in Ferris HS to 75% from 37%.
- (2-3) It is recommended that Aspira of Hudson County avoid providing services to Lincoln HS and Snyder HS until the percentage of Latino students increase to at least 33 %. The current percentage of Latino students are 17 % and 10 % respectively.
- (3-1) It is recommended that Aspira expand to provide services to Latino students in Perth Amboy HS where there are over 1300 Latino students that Aspira does not provide any services to.
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- (4-2) It is recommended that the Aspira increase the percentage of Puerto Rican students it services to 75% from 52 % in Paterson NJ.

## 5. Acknowledgements

The Programs Committee would like to thank:

- Pablo Albilal, the Housing Director of the Institute for Hispanic Health and Policy and Research for in Newark, NJ, for the data on the socio-economic status of Latinos in NJ and the US.
- David Noriega, Compliance Director for Paterson Public Schools for the data on the ethnic breakdown of students in Paterson public Schools.
- Margaret Rivera, board member of Aspira for valuable discussion and advice.

## References

Wang

March 21, 1995

## Open Issues for Programs Committee

### Overall

1. What is the objective of this report?
2. Anyone, does Aspira have objectives, official or unofficial, for the percentage of Aspira students that should be Puerto Rican ?  
  
*Aspira does have an objective in the 3 year plan that states that Aspira students should be 75% Puerto Rican.*

### Hudson County

1. Roberto what is the cultural breakdown of the Latinos students Aspira in JC services?  
  
*Roberto provided this data and I incorporated it Mar 21, 1995. However, Roberto please check its accuracy.*
2. Lourdes Arroyo What is the cultural breakdown of Students in Hoboken HS?
3. Noemi What report is the cultural breakdown published in? I need to cite the source of the data.
4. Roberto What programs does Aspira offer through Americorp in Dickinson HS
5. Noemi Which schools are elementary and Junior HS in Jersey City in the data you provided?

### Perth Amboy/ Middlesex County

1. Jorge and Ivonne Cruz what is the name of the report that has the cultural data? I need to reference it in Aspira's report.

March 21, 1995

2. Jorge Cruz the report you faxed me states a 73% graduation rate in Perth Amboy HS. The report you and Ivonne submitted to Aspira has the drop out rate being very high. Which one is correct?  
Please provide a reference for the dropout rates.

**Paterson / Passaic County**

1. Mirva or David Noriega (881-6249) what are the dropout rates in East Side and Kennedy HS?.